



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

NORTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The special meeting of the First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council; Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at the Washington Elementary School District Office in the Governing Board Room located at 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale, Arizona 85304.

Chair Jenna Goad called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

Members Present: Barbara Nicol, At Large Member, Bill Adams, School Administrator Member; Connie Robinson, Philanthropy Member; Willette Watts, Faith Based Member; Jenna Goad, Chair and Parent Member; Sally Downing, Vice Chair and Educator Member; James Emch, At Large Member; Mary Myers, At Large Member.

Member Not Present: Mindy Zapata, Child Care Provider Member; Cindy Hallman, Business Member.

Quorum: Established.

Chair Goad advised that a review of the information gathered from the session on October 12, 2010, review of numbers served in 2010, target; numbers to serve in 2011, and where the Council wants to go in 2012 based on identified needs and considerations will be the focus of the special meeting. Chair Goad also advised that the Council will review the expended dollars in 2010, what is allocated in 2011, and what is proposed to be allocated in 2012.

Chair Goad welcomed and introduced neighboring Regional Coordinators Christy Lyons from the Northwest Maricopa, and Northeast Coordinator Eman Yarrow. Vice Chair Pat VanMaanem of the Northeast Maricopa Council was also introduced. Chair Goad advised that as the Council looks at funding strategies for the North Phoenix Region, there is a need to look at potential opportunities for partnership and collaboration with neighboring Councils. The staff and volunteer may be asked questions as necessary during tonight's discussion.

Staff Present: Brenda Tomlin, Regional Coordinator; Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant; Tracey Craig, Regional Manager.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Member Willette Watts moved to approve the consent agenda item which included the regular meeting minutes of September 14, 2010, second by Member Mary Myers, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

3. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None

4. FUNDING PLAN DISCUSSION: Coordinator Tomlin asked the Council to take out items to help in the discussion for this evening: 4C: Review of Year End Financial Data, 4D: Brainstorm on Additional Strategy Component and 4E: Brainstorm on Cross-Regional Coordination/Collaboration Opportunities.

Coordinator Tomlin asked three questions of the Council:

- Has the Council identified Priority Needs?
- Do the existing strategies meet these needs? (Does the Council need to add or delete a strategy? Add a component?)
- Is there an opportunity for Coordination/Collaboration? (Across Strategy areas, across regions, is there funding needed to support?)

4A: Coordinator Tomlin went through the community responses from the questions that were asked of each participant that attended the October 12, 2010 work-session meeting. ([Attachment 01](#))

Chair Goad commented that of the concerns listed on ([Attachment 01](#)); the North Phoenix Council supports strategies that address each concern.

Zip Code Map: Coordinator Tomlin went through the zip code map where she added colored circles. Red indicates high risk zip codes with Child Protective Service removals, low income, and single parents. Green symbolizes areas that contain libraries and literacy programs. Brenda advised that Home Visitation covers all areas.

Family Resource Center Request for Grant Application (RFGA): Coordinator Tomlin advised that this closes on Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 2:00 pm. Brenda reminded the Council that this is the second time this RFGA went out. The first time closed on May 20, 2010 and did not receive any applications. Coordinator Tomlin had the opportunity to contact various people and organizations focusing on Faith Based Communities and is confident that there will be at least one proposal received. A review of the received proposal(s) will be held the week following the close date; at the latest, two weeks. The Council will then decide whether or not to fund any proposals based on the recommendations of the review committee. The approved recommendation will then go before the State Board for their approval.

Preventative Health: Coordinator Tomlin reminded the Council that only one month of service was provided for Health-E Application in SFY10 due to the late start. Member Emch wonders if by funding this strategy the Council is chasing a denial and duplicating services. Brenda reminded the Council of the discussion that was led by Member Hallman at their last meeting. Member Hallman advised that this program is very successful. Member Myers advised that this program allows for the ability to coordinate with families that would not normally come to the table for services. Families in the most need of healthcare fall in the cracks and this program helps families stay on State Services and apply for services by having real outreach specialists going to and talking to families one on one in family homes. Northwest Coordinator Christy Lyons who is part of the Health Strategy workgroup recommends this strategy and informed the Council that Health-E Applications is proven to be effective. Families can be referred to other services and get waitlisted.

Information: Brenda will provide the Council with the number of full-time employees that the Health-E Outreach program supports and re-check the number of centers that the Child Care Health Consultants serve.

Mental Health Consultants: Currently each Mental Health Consultant serves 8-10 centers. There are currently over 30 centers enrolled and there is a waiting list. The Mental Health Consultants have a Masters Degree and experience. The Mental Health Consultant works with the entire center.

Hearing Screenings: Maricopa County Child Care Health Consultants will start their services through a grant agreement in November 2010.

Oral Health: Although a proposal was received from Maricopa County Department of Public Health to provide Oral Health, clarifying questions asked by First Things First surrounding capacity issues were not answered and this strategy is currently on hold. The Council would like to know what the need is for Oral Health and would like to

see some numbers. Member Emch advised that when Oral Health Screeners offered services in the Centers, parents were very open to the idea. A suggestion was made to explore options for collaborating with other agencies such as Midwestern. Coordinator Tomlin expressed that if the Council still feels that this is an important strategy, then the money should remain in the budget as a place holder.

Strategy for Next Year: Obesity – Strategy Toolkit. Also discussed was the need for a wellness program. Diabetes and other long-term, chronic conditions are a concern and early prevention and education services may help. Council members have previously expressed a desire to have some time of “wellness component” be added to other existing strategies.

Family Support/Early Literacy: Coordinator Tomlin went through the proposed units to be served were 11,000; the actual number served was 22,523, more than two times what was proposed. The target for SFY11 is 25,000.

Teen Parent: This is a brand new strategy. Total served so far was nine (9) families. The goal is eighty (80) families in nine (9) months.

Family Resource Centers (Crisis Prevention): As discussed earlier in the meeting, the Council will be receiving information regarding the competitive RFGA at the next meeting. In addition, Coordinator Tomlin continues to be in discussion with the three (3) main elementary school districts serving the region: Washington Elementary School District, Deer Valley, and Paradise Valley. A proposal from WESD is anticipated for presentation at the next Council Meeting. Coordinator Tomlin advised that the Council may want to consider additional funding for this strategy area dependent upon how many sites they would ultimately like to fund. Additional information regarding costs will be provided at the next meeting.

Professional Development: It is difficult to determine how many people are eligible, i.e., how many child care providers work in the Region. A report is forth-coming from the current grantee regarding the initial implementation efforts.

Reward\$: This program provides incentives to early learning staff that work with children 0-5. The Reward\$ Program gave a total of thirty six incentives in the North Phoenix Region for SFY10. Over seventy (70) applications were received for the North Phoenix Region, but lack of documentation, length of employment, number of credit hours, and making too much money were the barriers for an applicant not receiving incentives. The incentives range from three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Valley of the Sun United way just hired Dawn Gerundo as the Community Impact Manger to replace John Cregg. The program is working diligently to assist those applicants with obtaining the needed information to complete their application.

T.E.A.C.H.: Susanna Mack with the Association for Supportive Child Care reported that with the help of Boeing, a pilot project will be initiated that will focus on assisting students to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree. Currently through the funding provided by First Things First, students are only able to obtain their Child Development Associate Credentialing or Associates of Arts. Two (2) students have enrolled in their CDA and thirty four (34) received scholarship within the A.A. program for SFY10. Ms. Mack advised that this is a good program but is a victim of the economy. Recruitment continues for the current fiscal years and applications continue to be received.

Community Based Training: Coordinator Tomlin advised that this program just started, and a report regarding initial implementation efforts will be forth-coming.

Quality Access & Affordability: In the North Phoenix Region there are currently forty two (42) Centers and twelve (12) Homes supported in the current fiscal year 2011. The State currently funds through statewide strategies nineteen (19) Quality First Centers, and three (3) Homes. For SFY2012, the Council wanted to add an additional twenty two (22) to twenty five (25) Centers. There are about twelve (12) Centers on the waitlist that have not yet been selected. It appears that all twelve (12) Centers will be able to be included in funding available for the current fiscal year.

Family Friend & Neighbor: This program did not start until October 1, 2009, had a slow start, and did not reach the numbers they thought they would. For the current fiscal year, there are forty five (45) participants enrolled. There are still challenges to face regarding implementation, however the grantee has been continuing to successfully problem-solve all barriers in coordination with FTF staff. The program is well on their way to the projected eight (8) sessions with fifteen (15) to twenty (20) participants. Two possible additional sites have been identified for this program, and with the economy, there is a definite need for FF&N Services.

Scholarships: A discussion took place on the length that scholarships are funded, and the need for them to be available for the entire year to help ensure continuity of care for the child. When in place, First Things First would like to tie availability of scholarships to Centers with a certain star rating level. A discussion on whether or not a sliding scale could/should be offered.

Northeast & Northwest Maricopa: Put money into preschools with additional slots. The available funding is first leveraged toward School Districts and then funneled to community providers. This strategy offered a nine (9) month program and the schools participating are being funded by First Things First.

Coordination/Collaboration: The Council previously indicated that they would like to collaborate with their neighboring regions. Coordinator Lyons advised that the Northwest and Northeast Councils have a sub-committee looking at aligning strategies. Christy invited the North Phoenix Council and would like to set up a meeting. The sub-committee meetings are held at the Peoria Unified School District in the morning. Member Mary Myers volunteered to attend.

Leftover Funding: A discussion took place regarding the amount of funding that is still available for the Council to consider allocating in SFY11, or to carry forward and allocate towards strategy areas in SFY12. It was discussed that a large portion of the "left over" funds would need to be carried forward into SFY12 to assure that services were maintained at the current level. Further discussion regarding this will occur at the next council meeting.

Council Homework: Coordinator Tomlin encouraged the Council to look at the discretionary allocation on the 2012 Funding Plan Financial Information (4C in the packet) and think about where this funding should go. (\$1,599,142). The Council must identify where these funds will be allocated for SFY2012. In addition, Council members should come prepared to determine target service numbers in each strategy area, and whether or not a new component or a new strategy is needed in any of the goal areas.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES: Coordinator Tomlin would like to hear the Chair/Vice Chair Meeting update from Member Myers and Member Hallman.

Member Adams and Member Watts attended the check tour and complimented Chair Goad on the professional and classy job she did in facilitating the check presentation.

The Council mentioned that they would like to have pizza at their next meeting.

5. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE: SFY10 BUDGET RECONCILIATION: Member Bill Adams moved to table item five (5) second by Member Robinson, all in favor, no discussion; item tabled.

6. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: December 14, 2010 starting at 4:30 pm in the Washington Elementary School District Governing Board Room; 4650 West Sweetwater; Glendale, Arizona 85304.

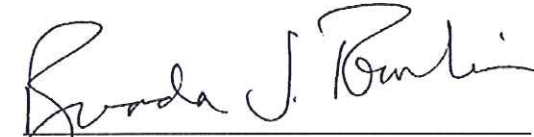
7. ADJOURNMENT: Member Bill Adams moved to adjourn, second by Member Connie Robinson, all in favor, no discussion, meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED


Brenda Tomlin, MSW, ACSW, Coordinator

COUNCIL APPROVAL


Jenne Goad, Chair



FIRST THINGS FIRST
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10-26-2010 NPHX Attachment 01

Question 1: When it comes to young children and their families, the ONE thing that I am most concerned about in North Phoenix is:

For families to understand their child's development and how to enhance their learning from an early age.

Access to affordable quality child care

Families are still not well informed of what First Things First is and what it does. They do not know about the opportunities, services and accomplishments that First Things First is providing in their community, and what is available to their family through child cares, preschools, and private organizations.

That ALL young children, including those in regulated as well as unregulated care are given equal opportunity to succeed. Like services being provided to ALL

Question 2: The one person/agency to contact that should be at the table to discuss coordination and collaboration efforts in the North Phoenix Region is:

No Answer

I think we have the right people we just need to collaborate.

Not the local or national P.T.A. as they are unable to remain unbiased in order to focus on the needs of the entire community being served.

Felt like there was pretty good representation of grantees at the workgroup discussion. Always wish the other state agencies were more involved i.e. DES, DHS.

Question 3: The top three strategies to support in the North Phoenix Region are:

Home Visitation, Child Care Tuition Scholarships, and Expanded Pre-School Programs, Teen Parent Case Management Services.

Family Resource Centers, Affordability Strategy for Early Care and Education Services (includes child care tuition scholarships and preschool expansion programs.

There are many concerns over the future of First Things First – this respondent had to leave the meeting @ 6:15 pm.

Family Friend and Neighbor Care, Professional Development and Support; T.E.A.C.H.; Quality First

Pre-screening and evaluation of developmental stages for Pre-school children.

One Important take-away: When examining outputs and outcomes from grantees in initial grant period program data, that figures are not always representative of a FULL year of services. Grants start at all different points in the fiscal year. Some grants did not run for a full year, some were nine month grants or less. It is important to consider that programs often experienced actual program start-up challenges such as offices, recruiting and hiring of staff, training of staff, building partnerships within the awarded region, recruiting program participants. Numbers reported could often be more reflective of 6 months of actual program services being provided.